NEW PROGRAM PROPOSAL:
AAT IN INDUSTRIAL MAINTENANCE TECHNOLOGY, SOMERSET TECHNICAL COLLEGE

ACTION
Agenda Item E-1-c
March 20, 2000

Recommendation:

That the Associate of Applied Technology program in Industrial Maintenance Technology proposed by Somerset Technical College be provisionally approved and registered in CIP 47.0303 (Industrial Machinery Maintenance and Repairer).

Rationale:

- The proposed associate degree program provides training for individuals interested in working in a variety of industries in the Somerset area. The objectives of the program are consistent with the mission of the institution.

- An advisory committee, the employers in industry, and current students indicate strong support for the program. Employment opportunities exist in this growing community and in counties surrounding Somerset. The local Chamber of Commerce reports an average of 6 percent growth in employment per year. Throughout the Lake Cumberland area, jobs in this occupational area are projected to increase by up to 60 percent by 2005.

- The proposed program meets curricular standards established by the Council on Occupational Education. The general education component may be completed at Somerset Technical College, Somerset Community College, other regionally accredited colleges and universities, or the Kentucky Commonwealth Virtual University.

- Somerset Technical College already offers diploma and certificate programs that include the core and restricted elective courses of the proposed program. The faculty meets the requirements of the Council on Occupational Education. Current classrooms, laboratories, and library facilities and services are adequate to support the program. Financial resources necessary to program success are already allocated to the diploma program or are available through internal reallocation.

- The program is recommended for provisional approval contingent upon satisfactory results of a site visit to be conducted by the Council on Occupational Education within 90 days after the program begins. The on-site visit will validate whether the technical college has the institutional capacity to offer the degree-level program as described in the program proposal.

An executive summary submitted by Somerset Technical College through the KCTCS is attached to this agenda item.

Staff Preparation by Charles Wade

Kentucky Community and Technical College System
Somerset Technical College
Proposal for Initiation of a New Degree Program
Associate in Applied Technology in Industrial Maintenance Technology

Executive Summary

Mission, Influence, Organization

The mission of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) is to improve the quality of life and employability of the citizens of the Commonwealth by serving as the primary provider of certificate, diploma, technical degree, associate degree technical and transfer programs; workforce training to meet the needs of existing and new businesses and industries; remedial and continuing education; short-term, customized training for business and industry; adult education; and associated services.

The mission of Somerset Technical College to provide "education and training to develop a skilled and versatile workforce" supports the KCTCS Mission. The program has consistently strived to meet the needs of local and surrounding industries for well-trained, competent maintenance technicians by offering high-quality certificate and diploma programs Industrial Maintenance Technology.

The AAT degree program in Industrial Maintenance Technology will be a collaborative effort between Somerset Technical College and Somerset Community College. This collaboration further advances the purpose and aim of KCTCS to make optimal use of existing resources to provide job training and promote economic development.

Program Description

Students are trained to hold positions in factories, hospitals, hotels, etc., where multi-skilled maintenance personnel are needed. Included are courses in air conditioning, carpentry, electricity, machine tool, metal fabrication, and welding. Requirements and opportunities in maintenance, good safety practices, pride in workmanship, and an understanding of the principles and accepted practices of the maintenance trade are covered in this program.

The AAT degree program in Industrial Maintenance Technology has been designed with input from local companies and a statewide Technical College Curriculum Committee and includes 60-69 credit hour of coursework. The curriculum includes 15 credit hours in general studies, 27 credit hours in industrial maintenance, and 18-27 credit hours of restricted electives from electronics, electricity, machine tool, and welding. The program provides students with a broad perspective of the Industrial Maintenance field, and the electives enable students and companies to meet specific needs and interests. The general education component broadens general employability skills such as problem solving, teamwork and communication skills required of today's workforce.

Supportive Data

General Electric Glass Plant and Hayes-Lemmerz have requested a degree program for their current employees. The Pulaski County area is experiencing tremendous growth in companies that need personnel highly trained in the maintenance field. According to the local Chamber of Commerce, Pulaski County has experienced a 6 percent growth in industrial business in the last five years. Federal empowerment zones located in parts of the Lake Cumberland Region are expected to spur additional economic development and growth that will create additional demand for qualified workers in the industrial maintenance field.
Other companies in the Lake Cumberland Region have also expressed interest in degree program in Industrial Maintenance Technology.

Currently the college offers certificate and diploma programs in Industrial Maintenance Technology. Recent survey results indicate that the AAT degree level program is needed to meet the needs of students seeking higher-level employment opportunities, for job advancement and promotion, and for increased compensation.

The increase in the use of state-of-the-art equipment for control of manufacturing processes increases the difficulty of finding qualified personnel. Generally, students who apply for industrial maintenance positions have not taken the math and science courses in high school that prepare them to use today's technology. The proposed Industrial Maintenance Technology program would provide the instruction needed to prepare these people to be productive industrial maintenance employees, to advance on the job, and to be eligible for pay incentives.

Resources

Somerset Technical College in partnership with Somerset Community College and local industry has adequate classroom, library, and equipment resources to offer the program. Also, qualified instructional staff are available for the program.

Students enrolled in the AAT degree program in Industrial Maintenance Technology will use the library resources available in Somerset Technical College's Manufacturing Division. Distance learning technology is available at the Center for Rural Development and at Somerset Community College. Students will also have access to the Internet and the Kentucky Commonwealth Virtual Library. No additional resources are required.

Conclusion

The AAT degree program in Industrial Maintenance, a collaborative effort involving Somerset Technical College, Somerset Community College, and local industrial companies, can meet the industrial maintenance needs of area business and industry for the immediate future. The availability of a highly qualified maintenance workforce will enable current industrial companies to remain competitive in the world economy and provide an incentive for new manufacturing companies to locate in the Lake Cumberland Region.